



Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board

STATE OF MONTANA

P.O. Box 200902 • Helena, MT 59620-0902 • (406) 841-5090 • Website: www.deq.mt.gov/pet/index.asp

February 20, 2007

To: Owners/operators of Petroleum Storage Tanks with Releases Eligible for the Fund,
Environmental Consultants, and subcontractors.

Subject: Reimbursement of Claims by the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board.

This communication has been written to inform Petroleum Storage Tank owners, operators, consultants and subcontractors about delays in reimbursement for eligible costs. At the February Board meeting, the Board passed a motion that the staff is to maintain a fund balance of One Million Dollars and to reimburse claims on a first-complete basis. The Board directed that when the fund contains sufficient money above One Million Dollars the staff will make weekly reimbursements of claims in the order that the claims are complete.

The motion was made by the Board because claim reimbursement requests exceed the available revenue. The Boards' motion establishes the approved method for claim reimbursement, as required by law.

As stated in **75-11-307(5), MCA**:

If the fund does not contain sufficient money to pay approved claims for eligible costs, a reimbursement may not be made, and the fund and the Board are not liable for making any reimbursement for the costs at that time. When the fund contains sufficient money, eligible costs must be reimbursed subsequently in the order in which they were approved by the Board.

The directive applies to all claims, including Board claims. The Board will continue to approve the claims over \$25,000 for reimbursement. All claims will be reimbursed in the order that they are determined complete.

We encourage owners/operators and their consultants to be sure that submitted claims contain the proper documentation so that they can be completed in a timely fashion. Please keep in mind that incomplete claims are suspended and are not placed in the queue for processing until all necessary documentation has been received.

If you should have questions concerning this matter, please call me at 406-841-5092

Sincerely,

Terry Wadsworth
Executive Director
Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board